

consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 5 p.m.

□ 1700

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLILEY) at 5 p.m.

#### HONORING MEMBERS OF THE CREW OF THE GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER U.S.S. "COLE"

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 631) honoring the members of the crew of the guided missile destroyer U.S.S. *Cole* (DDG-67) who were killed or wounded in the terrorist bombing attack on that vessel in Aden, Yemen, on October 12, 2000, expressing the sympathies of the House of Representatives to the families of those crew members, commending the ship's crew for their heroic damage control efforts, and condemning the bombing of that ship, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 631

Whereas the guided missile destroyer U.S.S. *COLE* (DDG-67) was severely damaged on October 12, 2000, when a boat bomb exploded alongside that ship while on a refueling stop in Aden, Yemen;

Whereas the explosion resulted in a 40-by-45 foot hole in the port side of the ship at the waterline and left seven of the ship's crew dead, ten of who as of October 17, 2000, are missing and presumed dead, and over three dozen wounded;

Whereas the U.S.S. *COLE* had stopped in Aden for routine refueling while in transit from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf to conduct forward maritime presence operations in the Persian Gulf region as part of the U.S.S. George Washington battle group;

Whereas the members of the United States Navy killed and wounded in the bombing were performing their duty in furtherance of the national security interests of the United States;

Whereas United States national security interests continue to require the forward deployment of elements of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces are routinely called upon to perform duties that place their lives at risk;

Whereas the crew members of the U.S.S. *COLE* who lost their lives as a result of the bombing of their ship on October 12, 2000, died in the honorable service to the Nation and exemplified all that is best in the American people; and

Whereas the heroic efforts of the surviving crew members of the U.S.S. *COLE* after the attack to save their ship and rescue their wounded shipmates are in the highest tradition of the United States Navy: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives, in response to the terrorist bombing attack on the U.S.S. *COLE* (DDG-67) on October 12, 2000, while on a refueling stop in Aden, Yemen, hereby—

(1) honors the members of the crew of the U.S.S. *COLE* who died as a result of that attack and sends heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones.

(2) honors the members of the crew of the U.S.S. *COLE* who were wounded in the attack for their service and sacrifice, expresses its hopes for their rapid and complete recovery, and extends its sympathies to their families;

(3) commends the crew of the U.S.S. *COLE* for their heroic damage control efforts; and

(4) condemns the attack against the U.S.S. *COLE* as an unprovoked and cowardly act of terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 631.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SPENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of sadness that I join my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), in offering this resolution for consideration by the House.

Last Thursday, October 12, 2000, a small boat exploded alongside the U.S.S. *Cole* during a brief refueling stop in the port of Aden in Yemen. The blast ripped a 40 by 45 foot hole in her side, killing 17 sailors and wounding some three dozen more.

This unprovoked and cowardly act of terrorism was perpetrated against an American warship while en route to the Persian Gulf to conduct maritime operations in the legitimate pursuit of our national security interests abroad.

The resolution before the House condemns this senseless act of violence against our military forces and ex-

presses the sympathies of the House of Representatives to the families of those crew members who were killed or wounded in the attack.

What can you say? What can you do? How can you really express to the families of these young men and women our profound sympathies and appreciation for their commitment?

Mr. Speaker, as we meet today, hundreds of thousands of young Americans from all corners of our great Nation are serving in the military, overseas and here at home. They go about their daily duty quietly and without fanfare. Yet, until something like this happens, we, as a Nation, tend to forget what they do every single day of the year to uphold our values, to protect our freedom and deter those who seek to do us harm.

Mr. Speaker, we forget; freedom is not free.

The resolution before us today appropriately, I think, recognizes and honors the price of freedom paid by the members of the crew of the U.S.S. *Cole*.

We are free and secure as a Nation today because of all the men and women of our military who fought to gain our freedom and independence, in the very first instance during the Revolutionary War, and have gone all over this world in war and peace since that time defending that freedom, every day. People who are no longer with us, they have done it.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know. I think as we honor these today, who have paid the price for freedom, and their families too, I think of all the others who have gone before too, who have paid the price, with their lives, their limbs, their health, many were prisoners of war, many are still missing in action, we should remember every single day we live that the price of freedom has been paid by other people, so that we can be free today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, Members speak on this floor for many reasons. We debate, we advocate, we commemorate, we celebrate.

Today, though, I rise to give honor to a crew of brave Americans, the crew of the U.S.S. *Cole*, and to give warning.

I want to honor those who gave their lives or were wounded while serving their country in a distant port, far away from home and in the cause of furthering the national security interests of our country. I also want to honor the surviving crew members, who stayed with the crippled ship and worked valiantly to recover their wounded or missing shipmates and to repair the damage to their ship.

And while I say I speak to give them honor, truly it is they who honor us. They and the millions of others who wear our country's uniform, who honor America by their gift of service and dedication.